

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 4 at page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the UPnP, network-connected devices exchange a definition file described in an XML (~~eXtended~~ eXtensible Markup Language) format for mutual authentication. The outline of processing of the UPnP is as follows.

- (1) Addressing process: its own device ID such as an IP address is acquired.
- (2) Discovery process: each device on a network is searched so as to acquire information such as device type or a function contained in a response received from each device.
- (3) Service request process: a request is made for a service to each device based on information acquired by the discovery process.

Please replace paragraph 3 at page 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The home network is connected to the external network via the home router. If access is made from the same network, a source MAC address is assigned thereto. In the case of external access via the router, however, a source address field is rewritten to the MAC address of the router. Using such an existing mechanism of an IP protocol, a MAC address of the device on the other side of communication is compared with the MAC address of the home router so as to automatically identify if it is access from the home network.

Please replace paragraph 1 at page 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the example shown in Fig. 1, only one home server is present on the home network. However, it is apparent that two or more home servers may be installed on the same home ~~server~~ network so that each of the home servers independently provides a distribution service of the contents in the home network.

Please replace paragraph 5 at page 15 continuing onto page 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A current network protocol does not provide any mechanism for identifying a network, such as a home network, by segment. Therefore, in view of the connection of the home network to the external network via the home router, using an existing mechanism of an IP protocol that access from the same network is provided with a source MAC address whereas a source address field is rewritten to a MAC address of a router in the case of external access via a router, the inventors of the present invention propose a method of automatically identifying if access is made from the home network by comparing a MAC address of the device on the other side of communication with a MAC address of the home router.

Please replace paragraph 4 at page 20 continuing onto page 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The server, to which the access request is made, fetches the source MAC address from a request packet and compares it with the MAC address of the default gateway which is acquired in advance by itself. If it is access from the same network, the source MAC address is assigned thereto. However, if it is external access via the router, the source address field is rewritten to the MAC address of the router. Therefore, based on the identification or non-identification of the source MAC address with the MAC address of the default gateway, it can be easily determined whether or not the request-source client is on the same network, that is, in the local environment. If it is in the local environment, the requested contents are distributed and a license thereof is issued. However, if it is not in the local environment, the request is refused. The use of the contents is allowed between the devices only in the thus formed local environment, thereby effectively restraining the unauthorized distribution of the contents.

Please replace paragraph 1 at page 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the above-described embodiment, using the existing mechanism of the IP protocol that the source MAC address is assigned to the access from the same network while the source address field is rewritten to the MAC address of the router in the case of the external access via the router, the access is automatically identified to be that from the home network or not by comparing the MAC address of the one in communication with the MAC address of the home router. However, a method of identifying the presence of the host apparatus on the same home network is not limited thereto.